

### God's Dream Lesson 3

- a. One Sentence Summary: God created the earth and created us to show off and display His glory forever and ever.

- i. Introduction

1. Review

- a. So far we have discovered that God DOES have an eternal purpose. And that purpose brings Him pleasure.
    - b. We also learned that He created all things for Himself, which we would assume, means for this eternal purpose.
    - c. We also saw that this purpose was not dreamed up on the spot. It has been something God has been thinking about before time began. God has this dreamed up somewhere in eternity past...
    - d. We are going to discover that in order to fully understand this dream, there are three aspects of the dream that need to be understood.

- ii. Body

1. This lesson will deal with this first aspect. And in order to grasp that, we are going to look into a "Why question".
    - a. When my son Luke was very young, he was constantly asking "Why. Daddy, why does God love us? Why do I have to do this? Why does this work this way. Why can't we do that..." He was constantly bombarding me with the "Why" question.
    - b. But just like I was happy my son kept asking why, God too, must be pleased when I ask him "Why" questions. "God, why did you create?" Not just us, but anything and everything?
    - c. "God, why did you create the cockroach? Why were you sorry you created humanity in Genesis before the flood?
    - d. And why did you save us though we are so sinful?"
      - i. Let's look at the answer. It is found in Ephesians 2:6 and 7. Paul's focus is on the fact that both Jew and Gentiles are a part of the body of Christ. The entire theme of the book is primarily about the unity of the body of Christ.
      - ii. He speaks about that in the third chapter. In the first chapter he is basically greeting them and encouraging them in who they are in Christ.
      - iii. He starts off the second chapter, reminding them who they were without Christ, objects of God's wrath because the prince of this world was at work within us.
      - iv. Then he points them to God's mercy, and how God made us alive together in Christ and saved us and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms.
      - v. In speaking about seating us in the heavenly realms, it is here that we get a better understanding of what God's dream is all about. In other words, figuring out the "Why" behind why we are saved.
      - vi. Eph. 2:4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ, even when we

were dead in our transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ, and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus in order that

1. in the coming ages, He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
  2. There are three prepositional phrases.
    - a. “in the coming ages,”
    - b. “In His kindness to us”
    - c. “in Christ Jesus.”
  3. “in the coming ages” talks about the time frame of what He is going to be doing.
  4. The other two: “In His kindness to us in Christ Jesus” describes the method of what He is going to do. These are all descriptive about what God is going to do, but it doesn’t say What God IS doing.
  5. Diagramming the sentence would tell you that “to show the incomparable riches of His grace” is the key. This is the main thing God is trying to do.
  6. So what does that tell us? It tells us that God wants to “show” the incomparable riches of His grace... not just for a few weeks, or a few months, or a few years, or a few millennia, God wants to show the riches of His grace forever and ever.
- vii. We found out in the last lesson that God created everything for His pleasure. And now we are beginning to put the pieces of the “Dream puzzle” together to realize that God created us, so He could show the riches of His grace forever and ever and ever. This is why WE were created.
- e. Going to the original Greek helps us understand what God is doing in a better way. The original Greek word for “To show” is *ἐνδεικνύμι endeiknumi*  
*en-dike'-noo-mee* It comes from two other Greek words, and basically means:  
*to indicate (by word or act):—To do, To show (forth).*
- There are two key components to this verb. One is “to do.” The other is “to show.”
- In other words, God wanted to do (or live out) His grace ..And secondly, He wants to show or show off) that grace ...for all eternity. He wants to put it on display in other words.
- f. This first purpose (to do, or to live out His grace) agrees with how the Greek verb is used in 1 Timothy 1:16. (which is actually the only other place that verb is used in the N.T.)

- g. Here, it is not translated “to show” but “to demonstrate”: Paul is speaking here and says:  
16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.
- h. Paul is saying, “Hey, I was a sinner to the max, but God saved me because Christ came to save sinners... and since I was the worst, Jesus saved me to demonstrate His perfect patience to all who believe in Him... He is demonstrating His patience. In other words, He wants to put it on display, He wants to show it off, He wants to reveal it for all its worth.
- i. Put it back in its context: You and I are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms so that God can live out and show off His grace!

That’s why we are saved. God gets something out of it. What does He get? He gets to live out His grace and show it off.

- 2. This is one of the key components of God’s dream. God has been dreaming to show off the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in Christ Jesus.
- 3. God’s dream was to live out His grace and show it off. Not only for now, not only for a few years or centuries or millennia, but forever and ever and ever.  
This was His dream before time began. It is an eternal dream, and God takes pleasure in it.
- 4. In the book of Exodus, we find Moses before the face of God. In the context, God’s people have already left Egypt. The Lord has already given the Ten Commandments to Moses and the people of Israel.
  - a. Moses is again called up for more instructions. But he stays up there for such a long time that the people of Israel think he has died.  
So they make themselves an idol in the shape of a calf. Many are judged for this, and then Moses goes back to God and says, “Look how sinful they are.”
  - b. God tells Moses to take the people on into the Promised Land, But, He says, “I will not go with you. If I were to go with you I would destroy you. I’ll send my angel instead.”
  - c. Moses then pleads with the Lord and says, “No. You personally must come.”  
Then God says, “I will go with YOU (meaning Moses personally).”
  - d. But Moses says, “No. Not just me. You must be with your people Israel... How will anyone know you are pleased with your people if you don’t come?”
  - e. The Lord then answers, “I will do the very thing you have asked, (that is go with all of Israel) because I am pleased with you and I know you by name....”

- f. Moses, now having seen the assurance of God’s presence, not only with Him, but with all of Israel, goes one step further in His communication with God. He asks God, “Show me your glory.”  
Literally the original Hebrew says, “Show me your glory. Make me to see it. “Moses has seen much of the glory and splendor of God, and all He wants is more of it.
  - g. So what does God do? He agrees to it by saying these words in Exodus 33 verse 19:  
And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.”
  - h. Now, remember, right before that He had said, “I will make all of my goodness pass before you...”  
In other words, all of God’s goodness, His compassion, His wisdom, His knowledge, His mercy, His beauty, His wonder, His awe, all of these are a part of God’s glory as well.
  - i. Everything seems to be a “subset” of His glory. God’s glory is a massive “umbrella” which covers all of who He is, all of His character, all of His actions... (We’ll give a definition for what glory really is later.)
  - j. With that link being made, let’s get back to the heart of the dream. Let’s switch back to Ephesians 2:6, 7 and again, see why we have been saved.  
We have been saved, seated with Christ in the heavenly realm, in order that God, in the coming ages, might live out and show off His grace that He has expressed to us in Christ Jesus.
5. Here is what we want to say God’s dream is:  
God wants to live out His glory (with all of its goodness) and show off that same glory forever and ever and ever. Before anything was created in Genesis chapter 1 verse 1, this was God’s goal.
  6. Therefore, He created. He created galaxies to put His glory on display. That’s why Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” He created the earth to put His glory on display.
  7. He created you and He created me and sent His son for us to show off His grace forever and ever and ever.
  8. This is what life is all about. This is why you and I are here. God is doing something; God is dreaming... a big dream. A dream that reveals His awesome glory.

iii. Conclusion:

1. We are here, the sun is here, the stars are here, the galaxies are here, and Jesus came to this earth, suffered and died for us, SO THAT God could live out and show off His glory.
2. The more we focus on this part of God’s dream, the more glory we will give to God, and the more Joy we will gain as individuals.